

# BLAKE ROAD

Corridor Collaborative

Safety • Neighborhood Improvement • Youth

## Development Projects on Blake Road

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[www.blakeroad.org](http://www.blakeroad.org)

Find us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/blakeroad](http://facebook.com/blakeroad)

Past newsletters have included information about development projects on Blake Road. These projects continue to move forward. Some updates are included here. Regular updates are also posted on the Blake Road website and Facebook page. Be sure to follow along for up-to-date information!

### Southwest Light-Rail Transit

Planning for the LRT has continued. The Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released in October. Community members can provide comments in response to this document. It was recently announced that the deadline to do so has been extended to 5pm on December 31, 2012.

The DEIS can be viewed online at [www.southwesttransitway.org](http://www.southwesttransitway.org) or in print at several locations including the Hopkins public library and City Hall. The website [www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/SW/SouthwestLRT.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/SW/SouthwestLRT.htm) also provides information about the project and the DEIS.

Comments on the DEIS can be submitted in writing via mail or email. Both websites provide instructions and a comment form. If you are interested in commenting, but are unsure where to start, check out a useful guide to commenting on environmental review projects that is available at [www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/CommentingOnERProjects.pdf](http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/documents/CommentingOnERProjects.pdf).



Cottageville Park

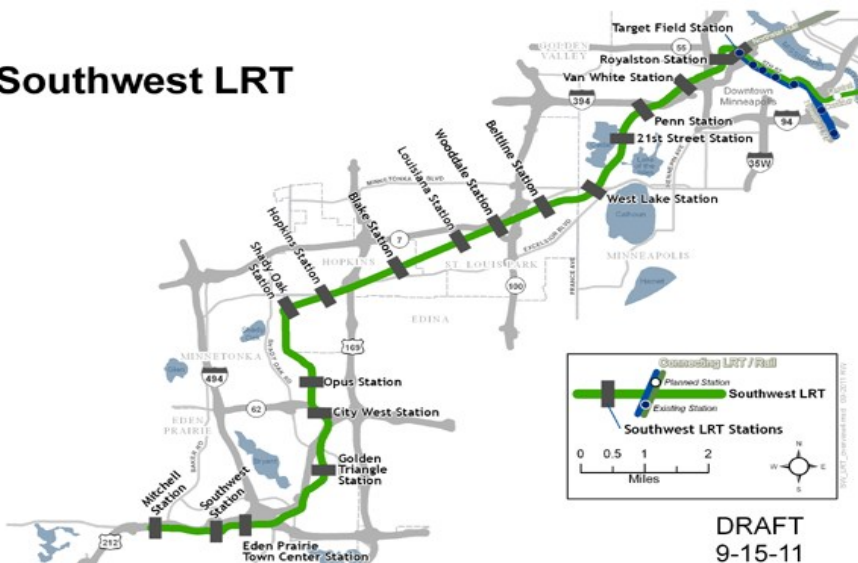
### Cottageville Park

This past year, the City of Hopkins collected ideas and heard from residents about what to include in the expanded park. The City also hired Cuningham Group, a landscape architecture firm, to create a design for the new park that incorporates ideas expressed by community members. On October 24, 2012, the City and Cuningham Group held an open house to display three possible designs for the park and to receive feedback on them. A second open house will be held at 6pm on December 18, 2012 at the Hopkins City Hall. At this open house, the final design, which will be a blueprint for the park, will be on display. Join the meeting to view the design and to hear more about the park expansion process.

### Knollwood Crossings

Demolition of the BP gas station that used to be located at 525 Blake Road North took place this fall to make way for two new retail buildings. These buildings will be 6,000 square feet each and are set to include a Sprint store, Fantastic Sams, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, and Bruegger's Bagels with space for additional stores. Sketches of the buildings soon to be constructed can be viewed at [www.hopkinsmn.com](http://www.hopkinsmn.com).

## Southwest LRT



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Knollwood Crossings

# Summer in Review

Summer was a busy time on Blake Road! Here is a snapshot of several activities that occurred.

## Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden

The Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden was initiated in 2011 by neighborhood residents interested in having a garden in the park. The Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, the City of Hopkins, and Hopkins Public Works have assisted residents with the garden project. Shepherd of the Hills Church located on Blake Road South has also offered support. The Cottageville Park garden covers an area of 40 by 40 feet and is collectively tended by community members from the Blake Road neighborhood. It is open to any resident who is interested in participating and all who help with the garden share in the harvest. In the spring of



this year, gardeners gathered to talk about which veggies to grow. A variety were selected

including: cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, tomatillos, okra, carrots, beets, zucchini, and more. When vegetables began to ripen, gardeners and neighbors gathered together to enjoy the harvest. The first event of the summer was a Garden BBQ which included grilled veggies from the garden. The second event was a joint National Night Out and Community Garden Day event. By hosting this event, the Cottageville Park garden group joined with groups across the state celebrating community gardens. The third event was a Garden Potluck party that included make-your-own salads with ingredients from the garden. Overall, it was a fun summer in the garden—one we hope will continue next year!

## Tutoring Program

In the spring of this year, a group of parents came together to talk about creating a summer tutoring program for youth. Parents wanted their children to practice reading and math over the summer to be ready for the upcoming school year. One of the first tasks was to find a location where students and parents could gather to study. After meeting with Pastor Scott from Shepherd of the Hills Church, the tutoring program found a home in the basement of the parsonage—a house located just next to the church. After a series of community meetings, it was decided that the pilot tutoring program would meet two days a week for two hours a day and would target 3rd-6th grade students. Soon after, a call for volunteer tutors was sent

out and was answered by a great group of community members. Students and tutors



met regularly and worked hard over the summer. At the end, everyone celebrated the summer of learning together. Parents also joined in hosting an open house event to thank the church and its members for all of their support. Based on the success of the pilot project, many parents were eager to not only continue the program into the fall, but also to expand it. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the tutor program, contact us at [blakeroad55343@gmail.com](mailto:blakeroad55343@gmail.com).

## Pedometer Fitness Challenge

Early in the summer, several neighborhood residents had been talking about finding a walking activity when the opportunity arose to apply for Allina Health's Neighborhood Health Connection™ Pedometer Fitness Challenge. After applying on behalf of the residents, the BRCC received 30 pedometers to distribute. The thirty participants divided into four teams and for six weeks, everyone kept track of their steps and recorded daily totals online. Team members encouraged one another and by the end of the



six weeks, Blake Road participants had walked a combined total of over 7,000 miles!

In addition to these programs, a summer lunch program was held at 43 Hoops Basketball Academy. Every summer, the Hopkins School District coordinates a program at several sites across the city for community members to share a healthy and nutritious meal together that is free for youth and low-cost for adults. Thanks to the school district's partnership with 43 Hoops, it was held for the first time on Blake Road and many neighborhood residents were able to enjoy lunch together. Also this summer, a University of Minnesota student studied about transportation in the Blake Road neighborhood. The report she created is available on [www.blakeroad.org](http://www.blakeroad.org).

Each summer provides an opportunity to create activities such as these. If you have a great one in mind for next year, let's work together to try to make it happen!

## Upcoming Events:

- **Cottageville Park Final Design Open House:** An open house to view the final design for Cottageville Park will be held at Hopkins City Hall on December 18 at 6pm.
- **Southwest Light-Rail Transit (LRT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):** Comments in response to the DEIS must be submitted by 5pm on December 31, 2012.
- **Open to Business:** Free advice and access to capital is available for small businesses in Hopkins. Drop in at the Depot Coffee House on Excelsior Blvd between 1-3pm on Dec. 17, Jan. 28, and Feb. 25. Or call Rob at 612-789-7337 ext. 11 to make an appointment.

For more information on these events and activities, visit the website [www.blakeroad.org](http://www.blakeroad.org) or send an email to: [blakeroad55343@gmail.com](mailto:blakeroad55343@gmail.com).